

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING March 23, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of March 23, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Councilman Charles Cephas said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Council members Parker Durham, Jerry Rhue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Attorney Robert Merriken, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery.

Councilman Murphy made a Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The approval of the minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting was put on hold until the next meeting.

County Council man Rick Price Report – Mayor Spratt read a written report that Council man Price submitted to her (Please see attached).

Agenda Requests – None

Mayor's Report - Mayor Spratt gave a report on Chief of Police Les Hutton's wife, JoAnn. She has been diagnosed with Liver and Pancreatic Cancer and has been given a year to live. Chief Hutton will need an extended leave, so Captain Henry will fill the position temporarily. The Mayor asked for prayers from everyone for the Huttons. Mayor Spratt also announced that the Hurlock Fire Company, the Town of Hurlock and the Legion are trying to come together to do a benefit for the Hutton family.

The WWTP solar project groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for April 15th.

The Hurlock Fire Department's Annual Banquet was held on March 14th and Mayor Spratt said it was an amazing night. She showed everyone the plaque that the fire department presented to the Hurlock Mayor and Council.

The Hurlock Lions Club scholarship fundraising dinner will be held this coming Saturday. Mayor Spratt noted that in the last 20 years, the Lions Club has given away over \$65,000.00 in scholarships.

The Dorchester County Council held their budget meeting last week and the consensus of opinion of the Council was not to build a new North Dorchester High School. A meeting regarding this issue will be held on Thursday evening at 5:00 p.m. at the County Office Building. Mayor Spratt encouraged everyone that is able to please attend this meeting. A new high school is greatly needed. The current one is 60 years old and is filled with mold.

Mayor Spratt asked Frank and Faye Fraley to come forward and she spoke about how outstanding the Hurlock American Legion support is. Mrs. Fraley announced that the Legion gave two contributions of \$5,000.00. One went to the Hurlock Fire Company for the new fire truck and the second was for new equipment for the ambulance. Mayor Spratt presented Mr. & Mrs. Fraley with a Key to the Town.

Department Reports –

Police Department - Captain Mike Henry presented a report for the Police Department. A handgun was brought into Hurlock Elementary School on Thursday night. The gun was found after everyone was gone. It was unloaded. A letter was sent out to all parents regarding this issue and the Hurlock Police Department is working with the State Police.

Fire Department - David Carrier, representative of the fire company thanked the Mayor & Council for a wonderful banquet. He announced that the ladder truck has been ordered. Mr. Carrier further stated that they are sending some members of the fire company to school for certification to train in town for live fire burns. With the help from the Legion and a grant received from Choptank Electric of \$8,000.00, and another grant for \$8,000.00 along with a matched State grant of \$16,000.00 to be used to purchase a Life Pack. Mr. Carrier thanked the police department for all of their assistance during the recent fire at the church. He thanked Joe Spratt for his assistance with lighting. Mr. Carrier also thanked everyone for their support. Frank Fraley complimented the fire department and stated they did an excellent job in stopping the fire. Councilman Murphy asked how many were invited for the banquet this year. The answer was 125 this year and about 40 last year.

Councilman Cephas asked to speak about the fire at his church. He thanked everyone that came out to help with controlling the fire. He said he stood on the sidelines and watched as the firemen put their lives on the line fighting that fire and was so appreciative of their work.

Old Business –

Ordinance 2015-4- Floodplain Management Ordinance – The Council asked to change the Ordinance, but FEMA and the State said it could not be changed so a vote is needed from the Council. A Motion was made by Councilman Cephas, and a second was made by Council man Murphy. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business – None

Comments –

Council members - Councilman Durham stated he was very glad to see such a large turnout at the night's meeting and hoped that the attendance would continue to grow at future meetings. Mayor Spratt announced that for anyone interested in watching the Town meetings on television, Bay Country changed the channel to 22.

Councilman Rhue spoke regarding Emergency Medical Responders and how much he appreciated all the people that came out to help at the fire and how much he appreciated the firemen's banquet.

Councilman Murphy asked everyone to keep people in the Town with health issues and other problems in their prayers.

Councilman Cephas again thanked the residents for the out pouring of support. He also spoke about R.J. Coulbourne who sent a Face Book Message to him saying, "The Lord Will provide".

Mayor Spratt announced there will be a Planning & Zoning Meeting at the Town Office on Thursday April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments –

Patti Eskridge asked Administrator Avery why houses on Main Street were being surveyed. Letters are going out to adjoining property owners with information regarding the proposed rezoning of the properties. Ms. Eskridge had several questions regarding the properties and what was going to be done with them. The properties in question were 206 and 210 S. Main Street. There was continued questioning and discussion regarding what was going to be done with the properties.

David Carrier thanked Administrator Avery, Joe Spratt, and the Department of Public Works for being there for the fire company and their work during the fire.

Councilman Cephas made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues based on the previous session. Administrator Avery said they were still working on getting answers to questions regarding the last session. Councilman Cephas withdrew his Motion.

With no further business or discussion, Councilman Murphy made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the meeting of March 23, 2015 was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,



John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Council members:


Rev. Charles T. Rhue


Councilman Murphy


Councilman Rhue